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AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

June 24, 2003

In 1998, Congress adopted the initial Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 which sets forth the three categories of assistance to torture victims: domestic treatment programs through the Department of Health and Human Services; foreign treatment centers through U.S. Agency for International Development; and multi-lateral assistance to treatment centers through a U.S. contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

When the Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA) was adopted in 1998 there were only a handful of treatment center for victims of torture in the United States. Competent treatment services to victims of torture require health professionals with clinical experience in treating victims. There was no governmental financial support for treatment programs and consequently it was difficult for programs to be established and remain afloat. Recognizing this situation, the original sponsors of the original TVRA requested only \$7.5 million for Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000. The TVRA of 1999 increased the amount to \$10 million for fiscal year 2001 through 2003.

-M-O-R-E-

MOTION

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Currently, there are two bills in the United States Congress. One in the House of Representative, H.R. 1813, which will amend the TVRA of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes and the other in the U.S. Senate, S. 854, which will authorize a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture.

Since 1992, over 45,000 refugees have arrived in Los Angeles County. In addition, Los Angeles has the largest number of asylum seekers in the United States. In 2002, more than 18,000 asylum cases were filed in Los Angeles. Refugees and immigrants do not generally report themselves as survivors of torture. Knowledge about screening and treating torture survivors is scarce among health professionals.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County:

- 1) Proclaim June 26, 2003, as "UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture," to bring public attention to the pain and suffering of torture victims around the world
- 2) Join The Program for Torture Victims, Amnesty International, the United Nations and community organizations to commend survivors of torture, and the families, friends, volunteers, and organizations in the County of Los Angeles, who assist in their recovery.

-M-O-R-E-

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3) Instruct our advocates in Washington to assist in seeking approval of H.R.

1813 and S. 854.

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Program for Torture Victim

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YBB:PM:jt3(VictimsDay03)



County of Los Angeles
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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

June 23, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

**MOTION TO SUPPORT H.R. 1813 AND S. 151, THE TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003, (ITEM NO. 19, AGENDA OF JUNE 24, 2003)**

Item No. 19 on the June 24, 2003 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Burke that the Board proclaim June 26, 2003 as "UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture" and support passage of H.R. 1813 (Smith, R-NJ) and S. 854 (Coleman, R-MN), the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003.

H.R. 1813 and S. 854 are similar bills, which would reauthorize the Domestic Treatment Centers for Victims of Torture, Foreign Treatment Centers for Victims of Torture, and U.S. contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2004, 2005, and 2006. Both bills, which were introduced in April 2003, are awaiting committee action in their respective houses.

The bills would have no impact on the County. Because there are no current Board policies relating to this legislation, the motion is a matter for your Board's policy determination.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

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